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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Amendment of the Amateur Service  
Rules Concerning the 222-225 MHz  
and 1240-1300MHz Frequency Bands

PR Docket No. 92-289

To: The Commission

REPLY COMMENTS OF MARK S. DILL

March 22, 1993

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On December 31, 1991, Michael C. Trahos submitted a Petition for Rule Making, which sought to amend Part 97 of the Commission's rules governing the Amateur Radio Service, in order to authorize Novice Class operators access to licensee/control operator privileges of repeater stations. Regarding those comments and particularly his argument on page five, section IV. that, "Novice Class licensees are qualified to be repeater licensees, control operators and trustees in other radio services", please consider the fact that the purposes for which the Amateur Radio Service was created and the licensing requirements thereof, are greatly different from those of the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) and the Private Land Mobile Radio Service (PLMRS). Comparing the Amateur Radio Service to the GMRS or PLMRS is like comparing apples to oranges. The mere reality that a typical Novice Class licensee or any other person for that matter, may be permitted to operate a repeater in the GMRS or PLMRS, according simply to the rules which govern those services, is not proof in and of itself of that individual's technical qualifications. It has absolutely no bearing whatsoever on his/her knowledge or ability to properly plan, construct, install, operate and maintain a repeater station in the Amateur Radio Service.

On page five, section IV., paragraph 11, Trahos states that repeater operation requirements in the PLMRS and GMRS are more stringent than those for amateur radio. Further, he states that being a repeater licensee/control operator/trustee under Parts 90 and/or 95 requires as much, if not more, technical knowledge as does being a licensee/control operator under Part 97. In the previous paragraph (10), however, he notes that station licensees in the PLMRS and GMRS are not required to take a written technical examination in order to be control operators and trustees of repeaters. The passage of the amateur Novice Class examination certainly does not require advanced technical knowledge, especially relative to repeater construction and operation. Therefore, in view of these facts, I must ask the Commission to seriously question what proof actually exists of the technical knowledge Trahos claims is required of and possessed by licensees/control operators/trustees of repeater stations governed by Parts 90 and 95. This alleged technical knowledge apparently forms the basis for his contention that Novice Class licensees who are permitted control operator/licensee/trustee privileges of repeaters in the GMRS and PLMRS, are therefore, somehow qualified to be licensees/control operators of repeater stations in the Amateur Radio Service. Yet without an objective written technical examination, the possession of such vital knowledge can not be verified.

The petitioner's argument, therefore, is invalid. The average Novice Class licensee does not operate a repeater in the GMRS or PLMRS; would likely possess dubious technical knowledge even if engaged in such operation, and is absolutely unqualified to operate/control a repeater station in the Amateur Radio Service. Individuals, whether licensed in GMRS/PLMRS or not, who desire to operate and control amateur radio repeaters and who truly do possess, by whatever means, the necessary technical knowledge, can easily prove their aptitude by passage of the No-Code Technician examination. This entry level license class was specifically created for operators whose interest lies in VHF/UHF communications, and is the license of choice for

many repeater licensees/control operators. The license is extremely popular and easily obtained. Revision of the Novice Class license and examination to allow repeater control operator/licensee privileges is neither necessary nor desirable.

On page seven, section V., Trahos proposes that repeaters licensed to and controlled by Novice Class licensees should utilize only commercially manufactured transmitters. Apparently, this suggestion is offered in lieu of demonstrable evidence of the technical competence allegedly possessed by Novice Class licensees. The actual intent of the petitioner, however, is ultimately irrelevant since, as the Commission has noted in the Notice, such a provision is not possible since VHF/UHF amateur radio equipment is (appropriately) exempt from any form of type acceptance requirement. Even if this exemption was not an issue, enforcement of the proposed provision would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, given current Commission resources.

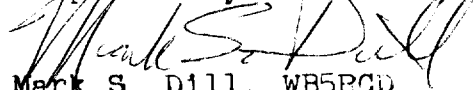
On page ten, paragraph 22, Trahos alleges that Commission adoption of his Petition for Rule Making is in the public interest. While consideration of new ideas is usually in the public interest, the actual implementation of the petitioner's proposal via formal changes to the Part 97 rules would not be in the public interest for at least two reasons.

- 1.) Accidental, non-malicious amateur interference to the radio equipment, repeaters and systems of law enforcement, fire, ambulance and other public safety agencies must be conscientiously avoided.
- 2.) Accidental, non-malicious amateur interference to other amateur equipment, repeaters and systems must also be conscientiously avoided since amateur equipment is frequently used for public service and emergency communication.

The average Novice Class licensee does not possess enough specific technical knowledge about repeater operation to insure that the above goals will be fulfilled.

Therefore, in view of the preceding arguments, I respectfully request that the Commission deny approval of RM-7888 and thereby maintain the current restriction prohibiting Novice Class licensees from being licensees or control operators of repeater stations.

Respectfully submitted,



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